

REMARKS

In the present application, claims 1-4, 6, 8, and 10-12 are pending; claims 5, 7, 9, and 13-17 have been cancelled; and, claims 1, 6, 8, and 12 have been amended. No new matter has been added by the amendments. Support for the amendments herein can be found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed. For example, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 5, claim 6 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 7, and claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 13.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6, 8-12, and 14-17 as presented prior to this amendment under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,837,935 to Judd Carper et al. (Carper) with U.S. Patent No. 6,436,853 to Liwei Lin et al. (Lin).

To overcome these rejections, claims 9 and 14-17 have been cancelled and independent claims 1, 6, and 8 have been amended to include subject matter that has been indicated by the Examiner as being allowable. More particularly, the Examiner objected to claims 5, 7, and 13 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but as otherwise being allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the respective base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claims 1, 6, and 8 to include the limitations of claims 5, 7, and 13, respectively. Accordingly, applicant submits that independent claims 1, 6, and 8 and the claims that depend therefrom are in condition for allowance which is respectfully requested.

Applicant does not concede that the subject matter of the claims as presented prior to this amendment is not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner and respectfully reserves the right to pursue these claims in one or more continuing applications.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance which is requested. The

Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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